To the Right Honorable the Parliament of *ENGLAND*.

The Humble Petition of the Maior, Juſtices, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Counſell of the City of *Norwich*.

Humby Sheweth,

THat we are very ſenſible of the great and manifold evils which are fallen upon the Trade of Worſted Weavers in this City, through the exceeding fraud, and deceit that is uſed by the falſe Reeling of Yarns, as have been ſeverall times preſented to us in the Court of Mayoralty: and appeared by ſeverall parcels of Yarn bought in the Market, and brought before us; ſome of which have had but twenty ſeven, ſome thirty, ſome thirty five, ſome fourty; and generally between fourty and fifty threds in a double Lea, which ought to be fourſcore; So that thereby, and by the liberty that many men take in the evill, and deceitfull working in that manufacture, for want of due Regulation and government of that Trade; by reaſon of the defects in the preſent Laws, now in force, touching the ſame; the juſt and true makers of thoſe Commodities are ſo diſcouraged and beaten out, as that they cannot any longer ſubſiſt; and by the bad and evill making thereof by others, Thoſe wares which formerly were in great eſteem in Forreign Kingdoms, are now grown into diſeſteem; So that, that great Antient Trade, which is the chief ſupport of this City, which doth not only imploy many thouſands of poor in the ſame, but even the moſt part of the generality of Citizens, who have their whole means of livelihood thereby, is already much decayed, and many hundreds of journimen, and other poor are turned out of work, and more likely daily to follow, which make the burthen of poor ſo heavy, as we know not how to bear it. And if the evils aforeſaid, be not timely and ſpeedily prevented, that whole Trade will come to ruin and deſolation, which will not onely abate the worth of Wools, and looſe the Trade both of Forreign Commerce, and Native imployment, and expoſe many thouſands to miſery and extremity, but the City, which while that Trade was upholden, remained in a good condition, by the loſs or further decay thereof, will become the moſt miſerable and deſpicable of any other.

Wherefore we foreſeeing the exceeding evils that are coming upon us, if that trade ſhould miſcarry; Do Humbly implore your Honors, that ſome ſpeedy order may be taken, ſuch as ſhall ſeem moſt convenient in your wiſdoms, for the preventing of the deceit in falſe Reeling their Yarns, and in falſe making of Stuffs, and for a due and good regulation of the Whole manufacture, ſo that the ſame Languiſhing Trade may again get life and ſtrength; that the honeſt man may be incouraged in his labor, the deceitfull perſon prevented in his fraud, the poor may be imployed, Trade and Traffique maintained, and our juſt fears removed,

And we ſhall ever pray, *&c.*